

A new species of *Ananteris* Thorell from French Guyana (Scorpiones, Buthidae)

Wilson R. LOURENÇO* & Lionel MONOD**

*Laboratoire de Zoologie (Arthropodes), Muséum National d'Histoire naturelle, 61, rue de Buffon, F-75005 Paris, France. e-mail: arachne@mnhn.fr

**Muséum d'histoire naturelle, route de Malagnou 1, case postale 6434, CH-1211 Genève 6, Suisse

A new species of *Ananteris* Thorell from French Guyana (Scorpiones, Buthidae). - A new species of *Ananteris* (Scorpiones, Buthidae) is described from rain forest in the region of Saint Eugène, French Guyana. This is the third species of *Ananteris* known from that country. The total number of species in the genus is now raised to 22.

Key-words: Scorpion - New species - *Ananteris* - Buthidae - French Guyane

INTRODUCTION

When the genus *Ananteris* was revised (LOURENÇO 1982), the species *Ananteris pydanieli* Lourenço was described from Manaus in Brazil. This species was later also cited from the south of French Guyana. Further studies (LOURENÇO 1988, 1993) clearly demonstrated that *A. pydanieli* is endemic to the region of Manaus, and that its citation to French Guyana was due to a misidentification.

Since the genus was last revised, the number of species described has increased continuously, with the description of 10 new species. At present it contains 21 known species (see LOURENÇO 1993, 1994, 1997, 1999-in press). In most cases, however, the species have remained rare.

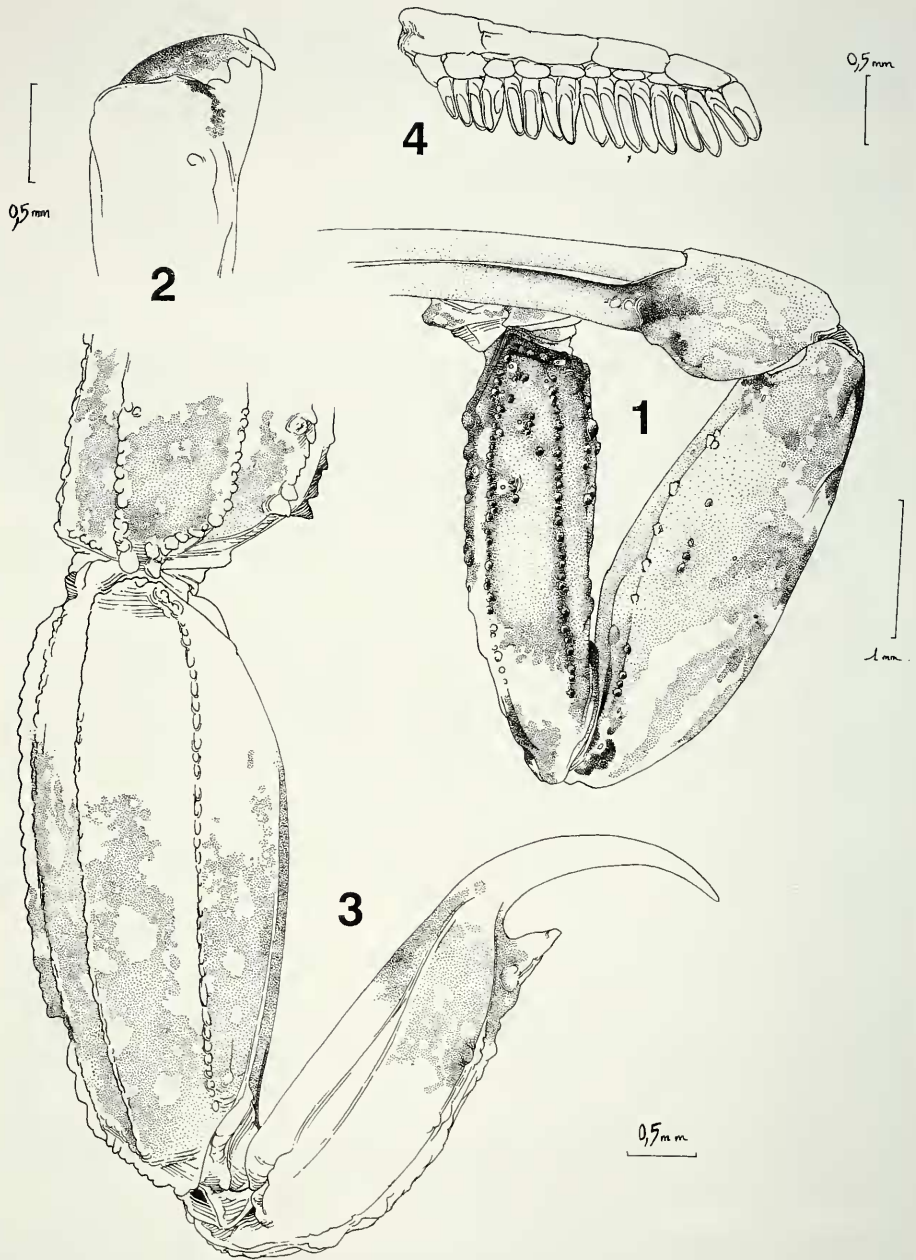
The genus *Ananteris* is distributed from the north of Argentina through Paraguay, Brazil, the Guyanas, Ecuador, Colombia, Panama and Costa Rica. One species is also known from Guinea in Africa. Most American species inhabit forest formations, however, the most widespread species, *Ananteris balzani* Thorell, type species of the genus is a typical savanicolous element.

The present investigation of a single specimen of *Ananteris* collected in the rain forest of Saint Eugène in French Guyana shows it to be a new species closely related to *A. pydanieli*. The new species is described herewith.

***Ananteris guyanensis* new species**

Figs 1 to 4

Holotype female: French Guyana, Saint Eugène, rain forest (in rotten log), 15/IV/1998 (leg. R. Boistel). Deposited in the Muséum d'histoire naturelle, Genève.



FIGS 1-4

Ananteris guyanensis, female holotype. 1. Pedipalp with the pattern of pigmentation. 2. Chelicera. 3. Metasomal segment V and telson, lateral aspect. 4. Pecten.

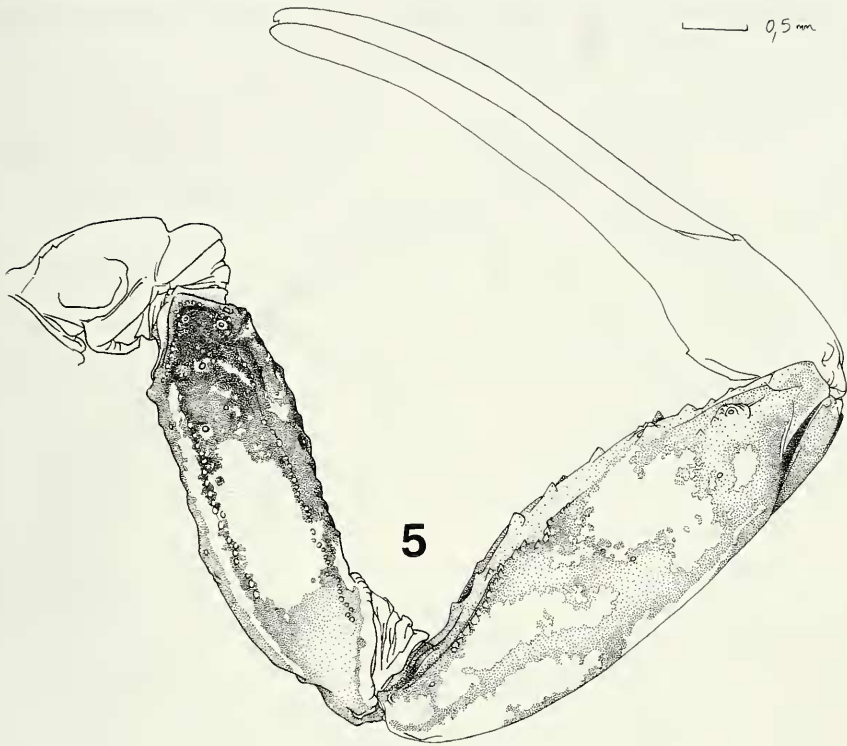


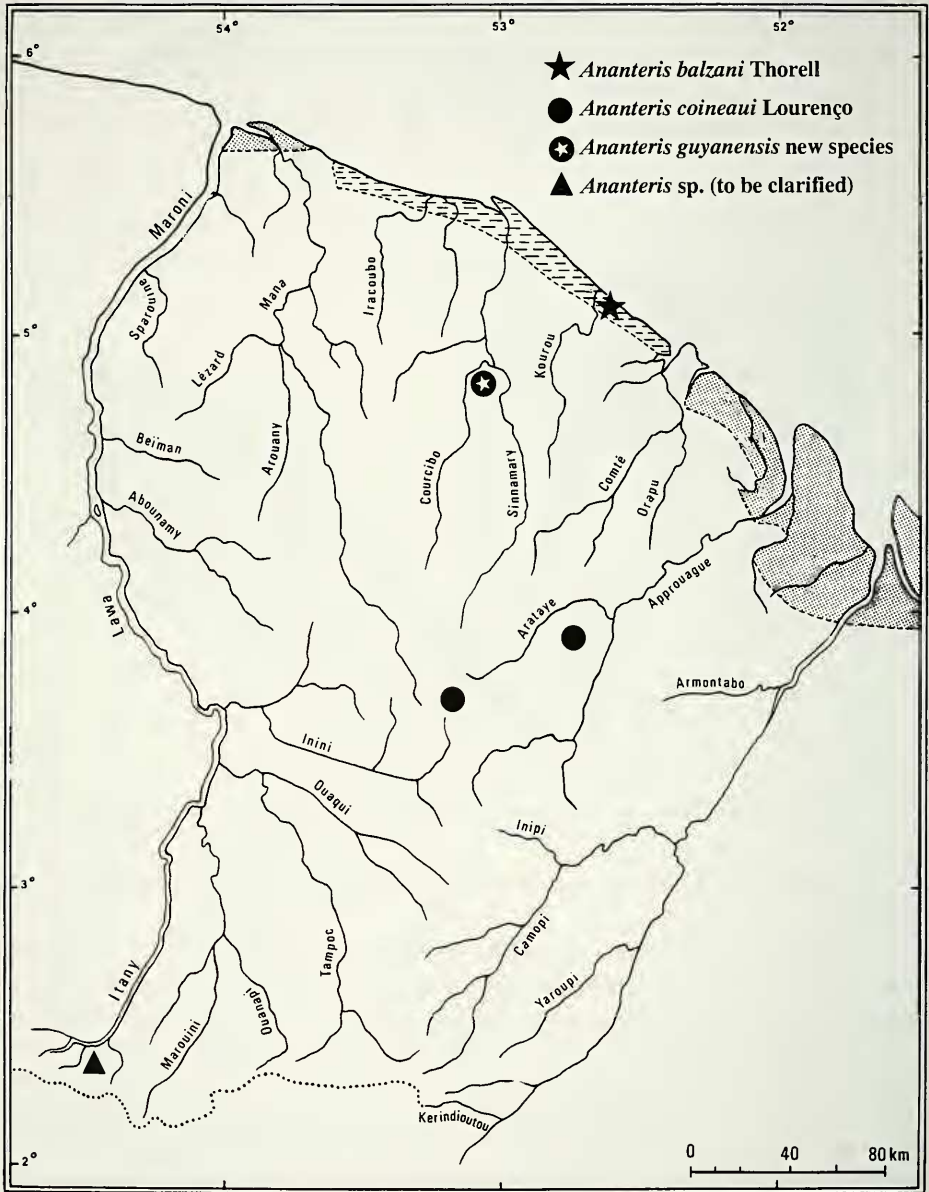
FIG. 5

Ananteris pydanieli, female paratype. Pedipalp with the pattern of pigmentation.

Etymology: Patronym refers to the country in which the scorpion was collected.

Coloration. Basically brownish-yellow, symmetrically marbled with dark reddish brown, producing an overall spotted appearance. Prosoma: carapace yellowish and heavily spotted; eyes surrounded with black pigment. Mesosoma: yellowish-brown with confluent brown stripes and two longitudinal yellowish stripes. Metasoma: segments I to V yellowish, with numerous brown spots; segments IV and V reddish, darker than the others. Vesicle reddish-yellow without spots, but with some darker areas over the keels. Venter yellowish with spots only on sternite VII. Chelicerae yellowish without variegated spots over their entire surface, and with only a dark thin zone at the base of the fingers; fingers reddish. Pedipalps: dark brown with spots on the femur and tibia; chelae yellowish; fingers brownish. Legs brownish with fuscous spots.

Morphology. Carapace feebly to moderately granular; anterior margin with a slight median concavity. Anterior median superciliary and posterior median keels very feeble. All furrows moderate to feeble. Median ocular tubercle distinctly anterior to the center; median eyes separated by less than one ocular diameter. Three pairs of lateral



FIGS 6

Map showing the known distribution of *Ananteris* species in French Guyana.

eyes. Sternum subtriangular to pentagonal. Mesosoma: tergites moderately granular. Median keel moderate to strong in all tergites. Tergite VII pentacarinat. Venter: genital operculum divided longitudinally. Pectines: pectinal tooth count 17-16; basal middle lamellae of the pectines not dilated; absence of fulcra. Sternites almost smooth with moderate elongate stigmata; VII with four vestigial keels. Metasoma: segments I to III with 10 keels, crenulate. Segment IV with 8 keels, crenulate. Intercarinal spaces moderately granular. Segment V with 5 keels. Telson moderately granular with one ventral keel and with a fairly short and moderately curved aculeus; subaculear tooth strong and spinoid. Cheliceral dentition characteristic of the family Buthidae (Vachon, 1963); fixed finger with two basal teeth; ventral aspect of both finger and manus with dense, long setae. Pedipalps: femur pentacarinat; tibia and chelae with a few keels but moderately crenulate; internal face of tibia with only vestigial spinoid granules; all faces moderately to feebly granular. Movable fingers with 7 oblique rows of granules; only one accessory granules present at the base of each row. Trichobothriotaxy; orthobothriotaxy A- β (Vachon, 1973, 1975). Legs: tarsus with very numerous fine median setae ventrally. Tibial spurs strongly developed on legs III and IV. Measurements in Table I.

DISCUSSION

The new species is closely related to *Ananteris pydanieli* Lourenço, since both species share in common the absence of any variegated spots over the entire surface of the chelicerae: the new species presents only a dark thin zone at the base of the fingers, this dark zone being absent from *A. pydanieli*. A variegated pattern of cheliceral pigmentation is present in all other known species of the genus, and can present an important interspecific variability (Lourenço 1982). The two species under discussion can also readily be identified by their different patterns of pigmentation on the pedipalps (Figs 2 and 5). These different patterns of pigmentation are of great taxonomic importance in the classification of *Ananteris* species (Lourenço 1982).

Moreover, the type localities of both species are markedly different, and all species of *Ananteris* (except for *Ananteris balzani* Thorell), present extremely limited geographic distributions (Lourenço 1982, 1993).

TABLE I

Morphometric values (in mm) of the female holotype of *Ananteris guyanensis*

Carapace:	
- length	3,3
- anterior width	2,2
- posterior width	3,1
Metasomal segment I:	
- length	1,5
- width	2,0
Metasomal segment V:	
- length	4,2
- width	2,3
- depth	2,1

Vesicle:	
- width	1,5
- depth	1,2
Pedipalp:	
- Femur length	2,9
- Femur width	1,0
- Tibia length	3,8
- Tibia width	1,2
- Chelae length	4,8
- Chelae width	0,6
- Chelae depth	0,6
Movable finger:	
- length	3,6

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